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PRESS RELEASE **19 November 1991**

80 East Timorese arrested in Jakarta

Today, Tuesday, 20 November, at midday local time, between 70 and 80 people were arrested in Jakarta after going to the UN building in Jalan Thamrin to hand in a statement about East Timor right to self-determination. The demonstration took place exactly one week after the massacre in Santa Cruz, Dili, where around one hundred people were killed.

The demonstrators handed out a declaration by the National Movement of East Timorese Students. A number of people were beaten in scuffles with the police.

The demonstration which lasted from 11.45 and 12.45am, was led by Joao Freitas do Camara. Do Camara is one of a group of Timorese who took refuge in the Japanese Embassy, Jakarta, several years ago. They were refused asylum and had to leave the embassy. It is understood that do Camara himself was not arrested and managed to leave the area.

Most people taking part in today's demonstration were Timorese. The demonstration caused a major traffic jam in one of Jakarta's main thoroughfares. Infight, the Indonesian Front for Human Rights, also participated in the demonstration.

Some 200 people, mostly East Timorese with a number of Indonesian human rights activists, went to the United Nations Information Office in Jalan Thamrin, Jakarta but they were not able to enter the building. From the UN building, they went to the Japanese and Australian embassies, which are on the same street. On the way, they were rounded up by police. They were driven off in two pick-ups and a bus and taken to two police offices, Polres and Polda.

The banners carried on the demonstration said:
"It is better to die than to be integrated!"
"The 12 November mass killings were only a small fraction of the mass killings in 16 years!".
"We are not GPK" ('GPK' is the army's abbreviation of 'security disturbance gangs').
"The victims are guilty because they have no guns" (original, English).
"Where are our dead? We want to bury them according to our own customs".
"Mr. Alatas, the question is not development but invasion and self-determination" (original, English)
"Under the threat of guns, everyone is silenced."

Infight has announced that if the arrested Timorese are not released by tomorrow, there will be another, larger demonstration tomorrow.